

REMARKS

Previous Rejections

Claims 1, 4 and 5 were previously rejected as anticipated by Tatewaki US 2002/0148672; Claims 6 and 7 were rejected as unpatentable over a combination of Tatewaki and Osborne; and Claim 8 was rejected as being unpatentable over a combination of Tatewaki and Bugosh.

Interview Summary

The undersigned gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended by the Examiner in granting an interview on July 28, 2008. In that interview, the Examiner indicated that all of the prior art rejections based on Tatewaki et al. (noted above) would be overcome by amending claim 1 as has been done here, but that the Examiner would then reject the claims based on U.S. Patent No. 6,186,268 to Onodera et al.

The Examiner specifically directed his attention to Figures 2 and 3 of Onodera et al., and stated that he viewed the corner shoulders 19a and 19b that help to entrain balls 34a and 34b (Fig. 2) as reading on Applicant's claimed ball *grooves*. In fact, these are described as corner shoulders in the patent (column 8, line 26), which is also what they look like. A shoulder is a step-like abutment which limits movement only with respect to the direction of that abutment, and that is what the corner shoulders of Onodera et al. do. A groove provides a symmetrical limitation on motion, limiting (as here) the motion of the bearing in a laterally symmetrical way. As Onodera et al. teaches here a shoulder and not a groove, it cannot be seen to anticipate the Applicant's claimed invention, which recites a groove.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Donald C. Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "L".

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